

The Parish Magazine of Whitchurch-on-Thames and Whitchurch Hill



June 2003

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Dear friends in Christ,

The past few weeks have been memorable ones for me, beginning with the licensing at St Mary's by Bishop Colin, and the party afterwards at the Rectory --- well up to l e g e n d a r y standards! It was my daughters back staying with me for you all for making welcome and also tradition of Sunday me begin to get to



W h i t c h u r c h good to have both in the UK and that occasion: thank them feel so for continuing the breakfasts, to help know you better. I have been called a number of names since I arrived, such as Rector or Father (those are just the ones I know about!) but I am very comfortable just being addressed as Peter: that's my Christian name, after all.

Being a part-time House for Duty priest is a new experience for me, as having one is for you. I think it would help us all if I give you some idea when you can normally expect me to be available, and when not. My time commitment is for 2 days per week, plus Sundays. For now, let's say that those 2 days are normally Tuesday and Friday. (So I won't normally be accessible on Mondays, Wednesdays or Thursdays, but you can leave a voice message on 0118 984 1473 or send an email to petersteddon@hotmail.com and I will respond as soon as possible.) My 'Sabbath rest' is normally from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday (not that much rest is usually involved).

Last Sunday we had two wonderful celebrations: welcoming Oliver Barker at his baptism as a new member of our church, and saying thank you and *au revoir* (because we shall keep in touch and ask him back) to Fr Peter Jefford at a barbecue at 'St John's Rooms'. Thanks to Harvey and helpers for manfully bearing the burden and heat of the barbie, and all who helped prepare such a good send-off.

Coming events: on *Thursday 29th May* we shall be celebrating the Ascension with a Team Eucharist at 7.30 pm at Stoke Row. Then we can look forward to the great feast of Pentecost on *8th June*. This year Whitchurch benefice will be involved with the whole Langtree Team in the Stoke Row Steam Rally at Ipsden, and there will be **NO 10AM SERVICE** that day, but a Team Service at the Rally at 11am. I will take an 8am Communion at St John's, and there will also be an ecumenical service at Pangbourne Fete at 3pm

As they waited for the promised Holy Spirit at the first Pentecost, the early disciples must have been wondering how to be the church in their world and live the Christian life in their community, both individually and corporately. From mid-June, a 6-week programme of small group meetings, based on Christian Aid materials and entitled "Act Justly", will run locally and address those same issues. I have seen the course programme and it looks very interesting. More details appear elsewhere in this magazine, or call Paul and Geraldine Whitcher on 984 4959.

The Nativity of John the Baptist is on *24th June*, which this year falls on a Tuesday. I suggest that this year we mark the occasion with a simple said celebration of the Eucharist at St John's at 7pm on that day. (We need to decide how and when to mark the Patronal Festivals in future, because we have a choice of 2 dates for St John, and at least 4 for the Blessed Virgin.)

On *29th June* we will be celebrating St Peter, Apostle and Martyr (one of my favourites: big mouth, big feet, big heart) and the quarterly Family Service will take place at St Mary's that afternoon. A Family Service is for the whole church family, not just the tinies, so do come along and share the worship.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Holy Baptism

On Sunday, May 18th, at St Mary's, Oliver, the son of Guy and Emma Barker of Myrtle Cottage, Hardwick Road.

Cremation

On Friday, May 2nd, at Reading Crematorium, John Logue of Purley Rise, followed by a Memorial Service at St Mary's.

Rest eternal grant unto him: may light perpetual shine upon him.



Looking Ahead—dates for your diary

5th July Elizabethan Singers are returning to St. Johns Church with 'Music for a Summer Evening'

20th June 2003 at 12 noon until 4 pm
Bonhams & Brooks Auctioneers of Henley
have agreed to hold a valuation day in the
Goring Heath Parish Hall Whitchurch Hill

FAMILY SERVICE

29th June

4 p.m.

St Mary's

Tel : 0118 9304898

Open : Mon-Sat 9-5pm
(Sundays 10-4pm May & June)

Englefield



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Where we are

We are 3 miles from junction 12 of the M4. Englefield village is signposted off the A340 Theale to Pangbourne road.

Who we are

Englefield Garden Centre is part of TACT, a **charity** providing training & therapy to people with learning disabilities

.....
WHITCHURCH UNITED CHARITIES

You will have read earlier this year of the new form this old Parish Charity will take to assist with the tools of education, where there is a need, from 1st June 2003.

Thos seeking details and the application form, should please apply to John Dolby, in writing, at Highway Cottage, High Street, Whitchurch on Thames, Reading RG8 7DB

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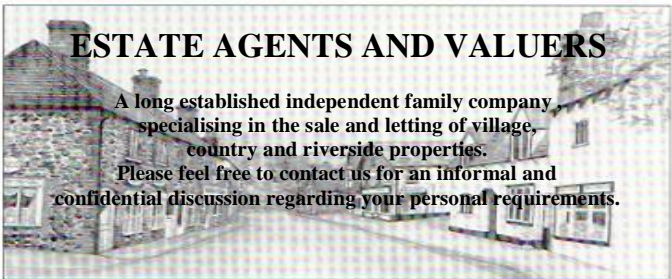
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W A D S Summer 2003

“Heatstroke”

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(Rector's magazine offering for the month of June)

This last month Checkendon has lost a very good friend. We have said farewell to Faith Bowell, and the whole community gathered in Church to pay our last respects. We were blessed by the Revd David Osborne's words, we enjoyed the flowers so kindly left by the Brallick and Underwood families from their joyful wedding a few days earlier, and we commended Faith into God's mercy and care.

When death comes so close to a community it is hard to remember that it was not part of God's original plan for humankind. But thanks to our sinfulness, our rebellion against God, death is now a fact of life. There is no use denying it. It is final that we return to the earth.

But the plan that God has for his people was revealed in glory with Christ, and we live now in the hope of God's life being restored to us all when Christ comes again.

Dwight L Moody said "Soon you will read in the papers that Moody is dead. Don't you believe it, for I shall be more alive than I am now."

The Anglican divine Richard Baxter wrote:

*Christ leads me through no darker rooms
Than he went through before;
And he that to God's kingdom comes
Must enter by this door.
My knowledge of that life is small,
The eye of faith is dim;
But its just enough that Christ knows all,
And I shall be with him.*

It makes all the difference when we face death with Christ at our side. He is our hope, strength, and courage. We need never be afraid of the dark night of death, for Christ has gone before us. He is the Way, and the Light of the World. He is the resurrection and the life. Because he lives, we will live also.

May the life and the joy of the risen Christ fill you with hope and peace, now and forever.

Your Rector

Kevin Davies

Children's Page

The story of David

Chapter 5 Good friends and bad enemies

Have you ever heard the rhyme

'Make friends make friends,

Never never break friends'?

Maybe you've even said it yourself with your own friends. Good friends are nice to have aren't they?

Someone to play with, to share secrets with, to enjoy treats together with. Someone to be with us and on our side when other people are horrid. David needed a friend like that.

After David killed the giant, he didn't marry the princess – not because he didn't want to but because the king turned into his enemy. He got jealous. David became a very good soldier and was in charge of lots of other soldiers. Every time he went into battle he won. The people were very proud of David and cheered whenever they saw him. All this made the king jealous. He decided to send David to the most dangerous places so he would be killed. But that didn't work. David and his soldiers fought bravely and won every time. So the king got more and more jealous.

But the king's son Jonathan had become David's friend. They were about the same age and Jonathan was glad David had killed the giant. They made a promise always to be friends – maybe a bit like our little rhyme. To prove his friendship Jonathan gave David a royal robe,

and all his own armour to use. Jonathan was a very good friend to David.

One day the king told Jonathan he wanted to kill David. Jonathan was horrified. He went to tell his friend to keep out of the king's way. Then he tried to persuade his father not to do such a dreadful thing.

Poor David. He had killed the giant, fought in the king's army, been loyal and obedient and the king wanted to kill him.

But lucky David because he had a good friend who looked after him and warned him.

This wasn't what we expected, was it? David was supposed to kill the giant, marry the princess and live happily ever after. That's how the fairy tales go. But this isn't a fairy tale, and our hero has a lot more adventures to go through. Next time we'll see how Jonathan helps David escape being killed again.

Friends are important aren't they? Without Jonathan there wouldn't be any more of David's story to tell! We might not have to save our friends from being killed, but it's good to be loyal and trustworthy like Jonathan was to David. And you know, the best friend of all to have is Jesus. He will never ever let us down. He's always ready to listen when we pray to him, and he always understands just how we feel.

Geraldine Witcher

FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN'S

Have you any Item that you would like to know the value of?

Bonhams & Brooks Auctioneers of Henley

have agreed to hold a valuation day in the Goring Heath Parish
Hall Whitchurch Hill

on the

20th June 2003 at 12 noon until 4 pm.

The entrance fee is £3 to include 1 item to be valued, tea or
coffee and biscuits with additional valuations at £1 per item.

Homemade soup and bread, a selection of ploughman's, wine
and soft drinks will be available at lunchtime.

All proceeds will be going to the Friends of St. John's Church
which is opposite the Parish Hall. The church will be open for
people to look around all afternoon.



The Friends of St. John's

The Friends of St. John's invite you to a concert
with the

**New Elizabethan Singers
'Music for a Summer Evening'**

at St John's Church Whitchurch Hill
on the 5th July at 7.30pm
Tickets are £7.50
including wine and Canapés

Tickets are available from Jo Adams 0118 9843362

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Plant Sale

The plant sale held on 17th May was very successful, thanks to the support of the many people who bought plants and members of the Society who looked after the sales, as well as our luck with the weather keeping dry. Sales increased compared with last year. We hope that plants will grow well and people will be pleased with how the plants perform during summer.

Visit to Clematis Corner, 15 Plough Close, Shillingford on 29th June at 12 noon.

There are still a few places available; please ring J. Armstrong (0118-9421645) to book. The garden specializes in clematis, with more than 300 varieties, grown in different ways within mixed flowerbeds, and includes the National Collection of herbaceous clematis. We have to visit the garden as a party, and meet in Plough Close by 11.50 a.m. so that the admission fee of £2 per person can be collected. From Wallingford go across roundabout at the junction with the A4074 and proceed onto A329 towards Warborough. Clematis Corner is about 200 yards from the roundabout and it is the first house on the left inside Plough Close. Parking is in Plough Close, so please try to share cars to minimize the number parking.

Shows

Schedules for the Late Summer Show to be held on Saturday, 13th September are available at the Trading Shed.

Trading

The Shed in the Memorial Hall Car Park is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. until the end of October. If you have not renewed your subscription for this year, we would be grateful if you could do so in the near future. If you are a new resident in this area, why not visit the Trading Shed to see the advantage of being a member of the Society. The yearly subscription is only £1.

Marion Dabbs

9422349

MOTHERS UNION

Our meeting this month will be held at the Peppard Parish Room on Tues. June 17th. at 2.30p.m. when the speaker will be the curate at St. Mary's, Henley, S. American Rev. Ernesto Losado Uzuriaga talking about his life and experiences which should be very interesting.

Our Prayer Group will be at Abbots Lodge on Thurs. June 19th. at 2.30p.m.

The time set for our participation in the annual Wave of Prayer is 10.30a.m. on Fri. June 13th. at All Saints Church, Peppard.

Last month's speaker, Kate Harris, on 'Four Wild Women from St. Matthew's Gospel' was very entertaining and much appreciated by us all.

Anyone is welcome at these meetings.

If anyone would like to attend but needs transport please phone me on 01491 680288 for a lift.

Mary Kent.



ALL CHURCHES TOGETHER

Did you go to an All Churches Together Lent Group this year? Did you enjoy it and wish there was something similar to continue going to? Paul and I did, and we have found some material which explores further some of the issues raised in the Lent Groups.

Christian Aid's 'Act Justly' is a set of six sessions on topics such as social issues, world debt, consumer power, ethical lifestyle. So we decided to plan a series of 'Summer Group' meetings, starting on June 11th. If you would like to join us and consider how these and other issues relate to our Christian faith, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, please give us a ring on 9844959 so we can confirm venue and make sure we have enough booklets for everyone.

Geraldine Witcher

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Funny Bones

A recent newsletter from the Swindon Old Town Partnership of Churches promoted a lecture entitled 'Cannibalism to Christianity in One Generation'. Following the talk, members were invited to remain for the 'bring and share finger buffet'.

Source: Writers' News.

Submitted by Peter Motley



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WHITCHURCH HILL W.I.

Our May 20th meeting welcomed Mrs Jenny Moss, area-organiser. She gave an excellent account of the resolutions selected for submission to the N.F.W.I. Annual General Meeting.

The resolutions were as follows:

1. Obesity and diet related to health problems
2. To enable older people to live in comfort and dignity.
3. Promoting apprenticeship with wider skills.

All three were voted For. There was no vote Against.

Pat Turner gave the vote of thanks to Mrs mOss. We also had a bring and buy table and £16.26 was raised for funds. Mrs. J Hanna, Vice-President, brought the meeting to a close.

The next meeting is a visit to the Herb Farm at Sonning Common.

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Churchwardens:

Alan Matthews, Ashdown, Duchess Close
0118 984 4489
Jo Adams, Windings, Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill
0118 984 3362

Vergers:

St Mary's
St John's Pat Turner 984 4200

Honorary Secretary:

Wendy Ferguson, 21 Swanston Field.
0118 984 1262

Organist and Choirmaster:

Julian Oxley, Applecroft, Upper Basildon, RG8 8NT
01491 671415

Honorary Treasurer:

Robert Plumb, Uplands Cottage.
0118 984 4838

Assistant Treasurer:

Tony Voysey, Mow Cop, High Street.
0118 984 3946

Captain of the Bellringers:

Stephanie May, 0118 957 2596

Editor, Parish Magazine

Sue Matthews, Ashdown, Duchess Close
0118 984 4489 or email: suematt@waitrose.com

Team Rector:

Reverend Kevin Davies
The Rectory, Checkendon, RG8 0SR
01491 680252

Services for

June

1st June, The Seventh Sunday of Easter

St John's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St Mary's	10 a.m.	Parish Communion

8th June, Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

St Mary's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
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**There will be no 10am Parish Communion
11am Team Service at the Steam Rally, Ipsden
3pm All Churches Together on Pangbourne Meadow**

St Mary's	6 p.m.	Evening Prayers
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15th June, Trinity Sunday

St John's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St Mary's	10 a.m.	Parish Communion

22nd June, First Sunday after Trinity

St Mary's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St John's	10 a.m.	Parish Communion
St Mary's	6 p.m.	Evening Prayers

29th June, Peter and Paul, Apostles

St John's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St Mary's	10 a.m.	Matins
St Mary's	4 p.m.	Family Service